



ARTICLES TO BE INQVIED

of, by the Church-wardens and

Sworn-men, in the Visitation

holden by the Arch-deacon
of Rochester.

In the Yeere of our Lord Christ,

163



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You shall sweare, that all affection, favour, hatred, hope of reward, feare of displeasure, or malice set aside, you shall upon due consideration of the Articles contained in this Booke (and now given you in charge) make a true and perfect Presentment in writing, of all and every such person and persons, dwelling within your parish, within the Arch-Deaconry of *Rochester*, as have committed any offence or fault; or made any default in any of the said Articles: or which are vehemently suspected, or defamed of any such offence, fault, or default: wherein you shall not present for any ill will, malice or hatred, contrary to the truth: nor for love, favour, reward, dread, or any other corrupt affection, conceale or spare to present any that be offenders, or suspected, or defamed in any of these causes: but shall doe uprightly (as men that have the feare of God before their eyes) desiring to maintaine Vertue, and to suppress Vice. So helpe you God in Christ Iesus.

God save the King.



Articles to be inquired of, by the Church-wardens
and Sworn-men, in the Visitation holden by the Arch-
deacon of *Recheſter*, in the yeare of our
Lord Chriſt, 163

*The Preſentments to be made upon their Oath, to the Arch-deacon
or his Officiall: with particular Answers to every Article.*

Conſtitutions Eccleſiaſticall.

VVhether have you in your Church or Chappell, the Booke of
Conſtitutions, or Canons Eccleſiaſticall, publiſhed by his
Highneſſe Authority, under the great Seale of England: And whether
hath your Miniſter read the ſame, or ſome part thereof, upon Sondates
and Holidaves. in the afternoone beſore Divine Service, according to
his Maieſties pleaſure in that behalfe, yea or no?

Divine Service.

1 Whether is Divine Service diligently and diſtinctly read in your
Church or Chappell (by your Miniſter) at Morning and evening prayer,
upon Sondaves and Holidaves, and on weeke dayes appointed, as Wed-
neſdayes and Frydayes, according to the preſcript forme of the Booke
of Common Prayer: And whether are the Sacraments duly admini-
ſtered, and all things elſe (touching Divine ſervice) performed according
to the ſaid Booke, and no otherwiſe?

Miniſter.

1 Whether doth your Miniſter uſually pray for the King and Queenes
ſpecially, with addition of ſuch Titles and Stiles; as are due to his
Highneſſe: and exhort the people to obedience to his Maieſty, and the
Magiſtrates under him?

2 Whether is your Miniſter a Preacher licenced: If yea, then by whom:
If he be no Preacher, doth he then procure Sermons to be Preached a-
mong you monthly, by a licenced Preacher: and when there is no Ser-
mon, doth he reade ſome one of the Homilies allowed?

3 Whether hath your Miniſter more Benefices then one: if he hath,
then at which doth he moſt abide: And whether doth he maintain in the
Benefice where he doth not reſide, a Preacher licenced, and preach him-
ſelfe uſually every Sunday in the place where he is reſident: or in ſome
other Church or Chappell?

Articles to be enquired of, &c.

afterwards voluntarily relinquished the same, and used himselfe in the course of his life as a Lay-man?

6 Whether doth your Minister usually upon Sondayes or Holidajes in the afternoones, Chatechize the youth in your parish, according to his Pastorales intimation: doth he use the times of perambulation appointed: doth he weare the Surplisse at such times as he saith publike prayers, or administreth the Sacraments: doth he then also weare such an habit as is agreeable to his degree taken in the University: and doth he in all points (without alteration) observe all the rites and ceremonies in Baptisme, Communion, Patrimony, Visitation of the sick, buriall of the dead, and giving thanks for Women after their deliverance, according to the order prescribed in the Booke of common prayer?

6 Whether doth your Minister himselfe receive the holy Communion every day that he administreth it to others kneeling at the same? And whether doth he administser it to any but to such as do kneele at the receiving thereof: And doth he use the words of Institution according to the Rite at every time that the Bread and Wine is received, in such manner and soyme, as by the Proviso of the 21 Canon is directed? And whether is warning given by him before hand for the Communion, as the 22. Canon requirerh: Or wherein is he faulty touching any of the premises?

7 Whether doth he bid all such Holidajes and Fasting dayes, as by the Booke of Common prayer appointed: and doth he once every six months denounce openly in your Parish, all such persons as doe stand incommunicate?

8 Whether doth he use decency and comlineffe in his apparell (both at home and abroad, riding or going) as by the eight and twentieth Canon is enioyned?

9 Whether doth he maintaine and keepe in good and sufficient reparations, all the houses and Barnes, with the other buildings belonging to his Benefice?

Ecclesiasticall Officers.

1 Whether doe you know or have heard that any person in your parish hath payed or promised to pay any sum of money, or other reward, directly or indirectly, by himselfe or any other, to any Judge or other Officer belonging to the Archdeacon, or subordinate to him for the abording of punishment for Incest, Adultery, Fornication, or any other crime punishable by the law, or for any other cause, and for what summe?

Articles to be enquired of, &c.

Let first, then heretofore hath bene accustomed to be taken: and whether is there a table of the rates of all P^{ar}ishes set up in their severall Courts, or offices: and whether they, or any of them, have taken upon them the Office of Informers or Promoters to the Courts, or any other way abused themselves in their Offices, contrary to the Lawes and Cannons in that behalfe?

3 Whether is the usuall number of Apparatoys increased: And whether is the Countrey any way over-burthened, wronged, or grieved by them? declare by whom, and in what manner?

Curates and Schoolemasters.

1 Whether is your Curate licenced to serve by the Ordinarie of the Diocese: And whether doth he serve any more Cures then one?

2 Whether doth he in all points (touching the office of his Ministry) demean and behave himselfe as is before set downe, and required in the Articles concerning Ministers: and whether doe you know of any persons that use private conventicles and there teach and preach as they list: and whether you know of any which doe not approve of the Decemories of the Church of England by law established.

3 Whether is there in your Parish, any that doth take upon him to teach Schollers privately or publickly being not licenced by the ordinarie of the Diocese: And whether doth he that is licenced to teach, beare himselfe in all things, as one that affecteth well the Religion and Government of this Church of England as it is now established, and as is required by the Lawes and Constitution of the Realme: and both he diligently bring his Schollers to the Church, to heare Divine Service?

Church and Churchyard.

1 Whether have you in your Church or Chappell the great English Bible, fairly and strongly bound, unspined, and whole, and the latest Edition, the booke of Common prayer explained the booke of Homilies, and all other books by Law appointed and required?

2 Whether have you in your Church or Chappell a seemely Pulpit, a decent Communion Table with mat Clothes to cover it: a front of Stone set in the old usuall place, a Communion Cup of silver, with a cover: a large Surplisse with sleeves: a Register booke in Parchment for Churchings, Weddings, and burials faithfully transcribed out of the old Register booke, and safely kept in a strong Coffer with three lockes provided for the same: and a name man

Articles to be enquired of, &c.

4 Whether are your Church or Chappell, and the Chancel thereof maintained in good and sufficient reparations within or without, and the same cleanly kept, and well paved, and decently furnished with seats and pewes meete for the Parishoners: If not, then by whose default: And is your Churchyard sufficiently fenced with walles, railles, or pales to keepe the same from noysance or damage?

Church-Wardens.

1 Whether were you the Church-Wardens and Questmen, chosen by the consent of the Minister and Parishoners: have the Church-Wardens before you, given up a iust and true account for their times, and delibered unto you whatsoever money or goods belonging to the Church, which was in their hands?

2 Whether doe you take care that none be suffered to preach in your parish, but such as are licensed by lawfull authoritie; And whether have you provided a booke for Strangers that resort to your Church to preach, causing them to enter their names therein, according to the 52. Canon:

3 Whether doe you carefully see that all the Parishoners (of age convenient) doe duly resort to the Church upon Sondays and Holidais: and there continuing all Divine Service, behave themselves reverently, religiously, and attentively: And doe you levy twelve pence upon every one, (that without lawfull impediment) is absent according to the law in that behalfe?

Executors and Administrators.

1 Whether know you, or have heard of any within your parish, that have presumed to intermeddle with the goods and cattles of any dead person, not having authority from the Ordinary either by proving the Will of the deceased, or by procuring letters of administration?

General Articles.

1 Whether is there in your Parish, or else where to your knowledge (either of the Clergy or of the Laity) any that doe deprave the late sacred Synod of this nation, assembled by his Majesties authority, affirmed the same to have bene a company of such as conspire against goodly and Religious professors of the Gospell, and therefore they and their proceedings, to be contemned (or at least not to be obeyed) and that it was not the true Church of England by representation, and that the Decrees therein made, and ratified, by the Kings supream authority, ought not to bind the absent, because they gave not their voices unto them?

Articles to be enquired of, &c.

the Lords supper in their owne parish three times a yeare at the least (whereof Easter to be one) or any that doe receive the same after any other mann. — en kneeling: or any that refuse to receive it, unless it be administered by a Preacher:

3 Whether doe you know, or suspect any in your parish to be sages hearers of Masse, or that doe entertaine Jesuites, or Seminary priests that do dissuade his Majesties Subjects from the Religion established: or that doe offer to dispute, confesse, and reason with any to the end to divert them from the same, and to perswade them to Popish Religion?

4 Whether among you, be there any that be knowne or suspected to use Sozcery, Witch-craft, Charming, or any such lewd devise and practise: or that take upon them to dispossesse or cast out the devill or devils: or that desire to be reputed cunning in that kind, or any that doe favour them, or resort unto them for helpe and counsell:

5 Whether are there in your Parish, any that are knowne or vehemently suspected to have committed Incest, Adultery, Fornication or other incontinency: or any that have received such persons into their houses, or conveyed such away before due penance performed: or any Blasphemer, common Drunkard, Swearer, Bawd, common scawld, common Quarreller, maker of seditious Libels, or any that have sought or bravaled in the Church or Churchyard?

6 Whether hath there any child bene bozne in the parish, which hath not bene brought in convenient time to the Church to be baptized?

7 Whether any in your parish that are married, doe live asunder, or are there any that have bin married within the degrees forbidden: or any have bene divorced, that do still keepe company together: or any man that hath two wives, or any Woman that hath two husbands living: or have there bin any married without banes, or in time prohibited, without speciall licence of the Ordinary, or any that have bin married south of the parish, where one of them dwell, or the Parents or Governours of one of them?

8 Whether have you in your parish any persons that do stand excommunicate, how long they have so continued: and whether any such excommunicate persons, have bin by the Minister admitted to divine service, or to receive the blessed Sacrament of the Lords body, before they have bin lawfully and duly restored to the Church?

9 Whether are there any in your Parish, that both use to worke upon Sundays and Holydaies, or open their shops for sale of their wares upon any of the Sabbes?

10 Whether are there any common haunter of Tynes, Tavernes, Tipting-houses, or Tiddnalling-houses, or that doe utter and sell

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Actuals upon the dayes, in time of Divine Service.

11 Whether doth all Parents, Masters, and Mistresses of Families in your Parish, cause their Children and Servants, to come to the Church every Sunday and Holiday before Evening prayer, there to be catechized and instructed by the Minister in the Principles of Religion: may have bene faulty herein since the last convocation, present their names: And whether doth your Minister admit any to receive the holy Communion, before they have bene confirmed by the Bishop?

12 Whether do you know or have heard of any within your said Parish, doth or did take upon him to affirme that the Church of England is not an apostolicall Church, and whether do you know of any persons that say or hold that the government of the Church of England under his Majesty by Arch-Bishops, Bishops, Deanes, Arch-Deacons, is repugnant to the Word of God.

13 Whether doe you know or have heard of any persons, which separate themselves from the Church of England, and Combine themselves in a new brotherhood, accounting those who are conformable to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England, to be prophane and unfit to bee ioyned with in Christian profession.

14 Whether do you know of any person whatsoever, speake against the Crosse in Baptisme, or kneeling at the Communion: or bowing at the name of Jesus.

Finally, you shall present all and every person knowne or vehemently suspected to be guilty of any manner of sinne or crime (punishable by Ecclesiasticall Discipline) all depravers of the Religion, and Church government established in this Realme: all spreaders abroad of rumors, touching the alteration or tolleration of Religion, and all that doe any way disturbe the good orders and quietnesse of this Church, and the Christian congregation: and whatsoever fault else, although it be not in these Articles expressed, which in your conscience you shall thinke fit to be reformed, and punished by the power of the Ecclesiasticall Hierarchy.

FINIS.

